

ALPHABET SOUP



An EPA Region 4 pesticides information update to inform regulators, organizations, and the interested public about the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), sustainable agriculture projects, and FIFRA registration actions and policy.

Mississippi Delta F.A.R.M. Project : The “Model”

Ever wonder what the long-term impact of all those federal grant dollars are? The Delta Farmer Advocating Resources Management (F.A.R.M.) project began in 1998, with some 161,000 acres, approximately 6 percent of the total farmland in the Delta. Today, Delta F.A.R.M. embraces over 500,000 acres of farmland.

Seed funds were provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Sustainable Agricultural Initiative (SAI) in the amount of \$100,000. Other early contributors were the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Novartis Crop Protection, Delta & Pine Land Company, FMC Corporation, and Farmers Grain Terminal.

The Delta F.A.R.M. project has garnered national attention, being recognized by the EPA as a project of excellence and frequently mentioned as an example of a successful partnership program. Delta F.A.R.M. collaborates not only with a number of state and federal agencies and organizations but also includes local organizations such as the Cleveland Rotary Club, the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce, the Greenwood Lion's Club and area banks.

Since 1998, Delta F.A.R.M.'s long arms have reached far beyond the Mississippi Delta. Lessons learned and a process for measuring change has been shared with similar projects in

Georgia and Nebraska.

Georgia State Cooperative Extension Service Develops Project Similar to Delta F.A.R.M. The Georgia Cooperative Extension Service is currently developing a comprehensive list of conservation practices (BMPs) for the various commodities grown in the state. The project will eventually begin to document non-regulatory conservation efforts like the Delta F.A.R.M. Program.

Nebraska Program Similar to Delta F.A.R.M. The Cornhusker F.A.R.M. (Cornhusker Farmers Advocating Resource Management) is entering its final developmental stages and should be off the ground in 2002. This Nebraska based program is modeled after Delta F.A.R.M., but exclusively for corn farmers.

Delta F.A.R.M. Web Site to Connect Farmers and Information Sources. EPA Region 4 is again providing assistance to Delta F.A.R.M. through the Strategic Agricultural Initiative grant program. Delta F.A.R.M. received \$11,250 in May of 2001 to develop an Electronic Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Information Transfer System. The web site when completed will provide a one-stop source of all pesticide stewardship information, including the latest pesticide stewardship practices

primarily for, but not limited to, cotton, corn milo, rice and soybeans, and will include implementation plans, costs, associated government programs, and professional contacts. Similar information will be provided for soil, water, waste and wildlife conservation practices. The site will also include relevant regulatory information and regulatory contacts.

Delta F.A.R.M. Executive Director, Trey Cooke, says "If farmers and landowners have easily accessible information, they are more apt to integrate suggested conservation practices and IPM techniques into their production systems. Likewise, regulatory compliance will be much more easily accomplished as farmers can review new laws and make the appropriate adjustments. The environmental impacts are expected to be significant."

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Note: See the February 1999 edition of Alphabet Soup for more information about Delta F.A.R.M. A copy of the Delta F.A.R.M. final project grant report is available at the EPA Region 4 Pesticide Home Page under the Strategic Agriculture Initiative heading at:
<<http://www.epa.gov/region4/air/pesticides/.htm>>

Region 4 EPA Funds New Strategic Agricultural Initiative Projects

The Strategic Agricultural Initiative grant program funds projects for state and non-profit organizations that seek to find safer pest management alternatives. The following awards were made in 2001.

Workshops to Develop a Strategic Research and Education Initiative for Innovative Integrated Pest Management Practices in Southern Sweet Potato Production Systems

Submitted by North Carolina State University \$49,000

Reducing Pesticide Usage through Reduced Tillage and Transition to Organic Vegetable and Fruit Production Submitted by Georgia Organics \$43,826.

Velvetbean Rotation to Transition Farmers to a More Sustainable System Submitted by Clemson University. \$50,000.

Stewardship Demonstration of Precision Application Technology for Soil-Applied Pesticides Submitted by Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services. \$35,000.

North Carolina Cotton Research Yields Pesticide Reduction with Precision Application Equipment

Dr. John Wilcut of North Carolina State University reports significant reductions of herbicide use in cotton with use of a weed sensing hooded sprayer. The early postemergence herbicide treatment sprays were reduced 47 to 52 percent with the Patchen hooded sprayer while herbicide use at or after the last cultivation (LAYBY) was reduced 65 to 67 percent.

Dr. Wilcut says, "I have worked over 15 years in applied weed management. I rate the weed sensing sprayer as one of the most exciting developments during this period. It is comparable to the development of transgenic and glyphosate technology. The weed sensing sprayer is very accurate for control of emerged weeds in row middles and, as we have shown, it can be modified to help manage weeds in the drill."

Dr. Wilcut's research was funded with a grant from EPA Region 4's Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program.

Source: EPA Final Summary Project Report and 2000 Cotton Weed Science Research Conference abstracts.

Alternate Row Middle Applications a Success in Peach Orchards

Dr. Harold Scherm of the University of Georgia reports promising results with mid-season alternate row middle (ARM) spraying of fungicides and insecticides against scab and plum curculio. Field trials conducted in experimental and commercial orchards in 1999 and 2000 showed no differences in fruit quality between the standard and ARM schedules. This corroborates similar results in 1997 and 1998. According to Dr. Scherm, "We now feel confident in recommending this approach for commercial use after third or fourth cover spray, assuming the application intervals are not spaced more than about 2 weeks apart."

Dr. Scherm's research was funded with a grant from EPA Region 4's Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program.

Source: EPA Final Summary Project Report

Ag Center Web Site Publishes New Information

web site:

<http://es.epa.gov/oeca/ag/publist.html>

New information can be found about the following topics:

Health and Safety
Nutrient Management
Pesticides
Water
Watersheds
Worker Protection Standard

Note: A regular visit to this site is an excellent way of keeping up with major regulatory changes that impact agriculture

New items on the Ag Center's Compliance News page related to pesticides --

<http://www.epa.gov/oeca/ag/> (click on News & Alerts

October 5

--- EPA Issues General Guidance on Pesticide Security

--- Federal Court Ratifies FQPA Consent Decree and Settlement Agreement

October 2

--- Conditional Registration of Bt Cotton Reaffirmed

September 28

--- Diazinon Cancellation Order Published

--- Pesticide Water Models Website

September 27

--- Workshop To Provide Assistance With Registration of Biopesticides

--- Ethion Cancellation Order Published

September 24

--- Complaint Issued for Pesticide Ingredient Switch Posing a Potential Health, Environmental Risk

--- Pesticide Advisory Panel to Review Issues Pertaining to Children's Exposure to CCA-Treated Wood

-- Public Input Sought Regarding CCA-Treated Wood Study Methods

September 21

-- Butylate Tolerance Reassessment, Interim Risk Management Decision Published

-- EPA Releases Risk Assessment Documents for Endosulfan

September 20

-- Request for Proposals for 2002 Environmental Education Grants

-- Integrated Pest Management

-- Fenamiphos and Metolachlor, Receipt of Requests for Voluntary Cancellation of Uses

September 17

-- Public-Private Partnerships for Reducing Pesticide Risk

-- Proceedings from National Risk Communication Conference

TRAINING AND ENFORCEMENT NEWS

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, will produce a new pesticide safety education video for farm workers.

The completed video will be submitted to the U.S. EPA for approval for Worker Protection Standard (WPS) training.

The principal investigators for this project are Drs. Thomas Arcury, Sara Quandt, Pamela Rao, of the Department of Family Medicine and C.M. Lane, Biomedical Communications, all of Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, NC.

The video will have a core module that will include information required for agricultural worker training and additional modules that will provide further details on handler pesticide safety; information regarding specific crops grown in NC; e.g., tobacco, and how to prevent Green Tobacco Sickness.

The video dialogue will be subtitled in English and will be accompanied with an English script to make it accessible to

farmers/growers. The video will be distributed in the Spring of 2002 to growers as a tool for WPS training compliance as well as to farm worker service-oriented groups, grower associations and national farm worker organizations for distribution to their stakeholders.

Urban Initiative Funds Florida School/Daycare IPM Project

Through the Urban Initiative grant program, Region 4 has funded the project "Promotion and Maintenance of IPM in Schools and Daycares through Training and Notification". The project is a joint effort between Dr. Faith Oi and Dr. Philip G. Koehler at the University of Florida and Dr. Mary Ellen Rogge at the University of Tennessee. The grant amount is just under \$84,000. County agents will be trained and then become School/Daycare IPM specialized agents and will, in turn, train other county agents and volunteers who will field questions within their own counties, after the well-established Master Gardener model. Training kits will also be distributed to ensure each county has the local knowledge base. Two series of workshops will be held which will include state pest control association meetings.

A series of brochures will be developed based on product Materials Safety Data Sheets and will include the following titles:

Common Cockroach Baits Used in IPM

Common Ant Baits Used in IPM

Common Fire Ant Baits Used in IPM

Common Products Used to Manage Yellow Jackets and Wasps in IPM

Common Rodent Management Products Used in IPM

Common Products Used to Manage Occasional Invaders in IPM

Common Termite Management Products Used in IPM

Additionally, the level of IPM adoption at schools/daycare centers will be examined, which will help provide documentation on the rate of pesticide reduction. Another study will be conducted to evaluate the impact of training on IPM adoption and the change in attitudes toward pests and pesticides after education.

The Urban Initiative projects funded last year included: "Urban Initiative Enforcement Project; Partnering With Pest Management Professionals" with Dr. Mike Linker at North Carolina State University; "Integrated Pest Management School Ambassador Project" with Roger Francis at Clemson University; and, "Implementing School and Community IPM in Mobile County, Alabama" with Mark Rumph at Auburn University and Tony Cofer at the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries.

For questions on the Urban Initiative grant program, please contact Dr. Troy Pierce at (404) 562-9016 or e-mail at pierce.troy@epa.gov.

COMMENTS BY THE EDITOR

To view an electronic version of Alphabet Soup visit the Region 4 web site at:

<http://www.epa.gov/region4/air/pesticides/newslett.htm>

Readers are encouraged to submit comments and suggestions for improving the newsletter. To submit comments or information for Alphabet Soup please contact:

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